

# BUSINESS NEWS



## CARES Act Grant Funding - Round II

The COVID-19 Small Business & Nonprofit Relief Fund grant provides limited financial relief to local businesses that have experienced significant economic hardship or unusual expenses because of the COVID-19 public health emergency. In our first round of grant funding,

which closed June 24, we received more than 250 applications from Calvert County's sole proprietors, micro- and small-business owners and 44 applications from nonprofit organizations.

We are currently preparing to open the portal for a second round of grant applications in the following increments:

- Sole proprietor: \$1,500
- Micro Business (1-15 employees): \$5,000
- Small Business (16-50 employees): \$7,000
- Nonprofit Relief: Up to \$10,000
- Nonprofit Assistance: Up to \$5,000
- Nonprofit Grass Roots: Up to \$1,500

Both for-profit small businesses with commercial locations in Calvert County and nonprofit organizations serving Calvert County are eligible. The grant may be used for expenses related to business interruption or due to the public health emergency. Repayment is not required for any funds received. If you applied in the first round but were ineligible due to employee count or inability to demonstrate at least 50% of combined revenue loss and expenses, requirements in the second round will be less restrictive.

To receive additional information and eligibility criteria visit [online](#) and to receive notification when the application portal reopens, please register for our [Business Matters e-newsletter](#).

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## Additional State Funding

Gov. Hogan announced [additional funding for small businesses](#) affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The bulk of funding will be used to expand the Maryland Small Business COVID-19 Emergency Relief Grant Fund. This program, which awards grants of up to \$10,000 to businesses of 50 or fewer employees, has already provided more than \$40 million in funds to 4,073 applicants.



The additional funding will become available on **July 20** and will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis based on applications already received by the Maryland Department of Commerce. No new applications will be accepted. Additional funding is also being provided to reimburse state-supported universities as well as to provide

## Project Opportunity - Free Entrepreneur Training for Veterans



Project Opportunity is an intensive curriculum-based 10-week cohort program. The Fall 2020 program will meet every Thursday, Sept. 3-Nov. 5, 2020, from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Sessions will be a combination of classroom training held at Tech Port in St. Mary's County and virtual training via Zoom. Through grants and community business support this program is **free** to all veterans. The curriculum and materials are facilitated by small business professionals and subject matter experts. The program concludes with a formal business pitch on Nov. 12, 2020. Training topics include assessing a business idea, marketing analysis, financing, business structure, taxes and business plan development.

**Register now** for the Fall 2020 Orientation Session. Orientation is Wednesday, Aug. 12, 2020, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Tech Port, 44185 Airport Road in California, MD.

### Back to Business? Celebrate with the Calvert County Chamber of Commerce!

Is your business open and/or reopening after a recent shutdown due to COVID-19? Let the Calvert County Chamber of Commerce help you celebrate by showcasing your business. In a ribbon-tying event, a Chamber staff member or volunteer will come to your business, take a picture of you with your sign and post it to their social media sites. Each business receives a sign and a ribbon to show that they are open and ready for business. It's FREE for members and nonmembers alike as the Chamber works to tie our business community back together. Contact them at [tyingcalvert@calvertchamber.org](mailto:tyingcalvert@calvertchamber.org) or call 410-535-2577.



Cobblers Creations



Poston's Fitness For Life



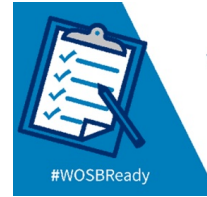
Maryland's Buy Local Challenge encourages all Marylanders to support local farmers and producers by eating, drinking and enjoying locally produced farm products during Buy Local Week, July 18 to 26.

The Southern MD Agricultural Development Commission has distributed promotional items to Southern Maryland's farmers markets which includes a bright orange insulated bag with a refillable pocket-sized hand sanitizer clip-on and a succotash recipe card. Take the "call to action" and pledge to enjoy at least one local product each day during the challenge week. Visit [online](#) for recipes, resources, statewide links to find local products, competitions, prizes and more!

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## Upcoming WOSB and EDWOSB certification improvements

Starting on July 15, 2020, the certification process for Women-Owned Small Businesses (WOSBs) and Economically Disadvantaged WOSBs (EDWOSBs) will begin to change as SBA implements improvements to the WOSB Federal Contracting Program, as put forth in the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). These new regulations make it easier for qualified small businesses to participate in the WOSB Federal Contracting Program by improving the customer experience. At the same time, the SBA is strengthening oversight and maintaining the integrity of the certification process. Visit [online](#) for more info.



WOSB Federal Contracting Program  
**Certification Changes**

WOSB **READY**  
sba.gov/WOSBReady



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## What's Open and What Can I Do?

To find a list of county businesses who have registered as currently open (including hours, service options and contact information), visit [online](#). And if the family is stir-crazy for outdoor summer fun, check out the [Parks & Recreation website](#) for information on open facilities and operating hours.

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## Farewell, Sandy Bentley!

Amidst all the other unusual and life-changing events that have occurred this year, the Department of Economic Development's long-time Executive Administrative Assistant, Sandy Bentley, announced her retirement from County Government after 25 years of service. Sandy's last day is July 31. We wish her the healthiest and happiest of days as she enters this new phase of her life which she plans to dedicate to spending long, quality visits with family and friends. Best wishes, Sandy; you will be missed!

